SBASY

SUE WILKINS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHIEFT NO. 28

CLIMENT NO. 28

SB 154

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MISSOULA
PRE-RELEASE
CENTER

COMMUNITY
SERVICE
PROGRAM

MISDEMEANOR SUPERVISION PROGRAM

PRETRIAL
SUPERVISION
PROGRAM

Dear Chairman Murphy and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am the Executive Director of Missoula Correctional Services, Inc. (MCS) a non-profit corporation that provides a number of community corrections programs for the State of Montana, Missoula County, and the City of Missoula. MCS supervises offenders convicted of felony and misdemeanor offenses. Additionally, MCS operates one program that oversees youth referred by Youth Court for the performance of their community service hours.

I am writing you today as an informational witness. I would venture to say that at least 90% of the adult offenders we supervise have chemical dependency problems. MCS has witnessed a number of addicted offenders obtain their medical marijuana card through the existing medical marijuana law as a means to support their addiction. As such, it becomes a public safety issue and an impediment to the rehabilitation of these offenders.

MCS respectfully requests that the following small amendments be incorporated into the bill.

- Add to Section 2 of the authorized print version of SB 154 on page 5, line 5
 "(b) The department shall deny an application or renewal if the Applicant is
 under the supervision of the Department of Corrections or a youth Court or is
 ordered by a Court to participate in any state, county or local government
 criminal supervision or enforcement program."
- Add to Section 4 of the authorized print version of SP 154 on page 7, line 23
 "(c) The use of marijuana by any person under the supervision of the
 Department of Corrections or youth Court or ordered by a Court to
 participate in any state, county or local government criminal supervision or
 enforcement program."
- Add to Section 4 of the authorized print version of SB 154 on page 7, line 26
 "...including all facilities and programs described in 53-1-202."

The amendments submitted are to insure that none of these offenders slip through the cracks because of language or definitional aspects of the legislation. The amendments simply tighten up the bill to accomplish the goal of the bill.

I would appreciate your support of the proposed amendments submitted for SB 154.

Sincerely,

Sue L. Wilkins, Executive Director Missoula Correctional Services, Inc.